

IN BEHALF OF GAS USERS

The District Inspector Recommends
Better Rebate Rates.

Statistics on Faulty Meters Contained in His Annual Report to the Commissioners—Favorable Comparisons of the Local Companies and Those of Other Cities.

The operations of the office of the District Inspector of Gas and Meters during the fiscal year ended June 30 last are fully detailed in a report submitted to the District Commissioners this afternoon by S. Calvert Ford, who is in charge of the office. The statement is lengthy, and in addition to giving statistics regarding the quality of gas furnished by the local illuminating companies, and the probable expenses of the office during the next fiscal year, makes a number of recommendations.

Reference is made to the complaints which consumers frequently make regarding the small reductions which the local gas companies allow when the inspector of Gas and Meters reports and reports that their meters are registering too fast.

Inspector Ford informs the commissioners that it is the custom of local companies to allow a reduction on current bills only and according to the percentage of error found by the inspector. He asserts that in Baltimore and New York a much more liberal allowance is made by the gas companies and states that he has been informed by the General Superintendent of Lamps and Inspector of Meters in Baltimore that, when meters are removed in that city on complaints made by consumers of gas and found to register too fast, the consumer has the right to demand that the gas company make a reduction from the bills of the preceding four months to the amount of the percentage that the meter is registering against him. He was also informed by the Secretary of the Consolidated Gas Company, of New York, that when meters register too fast it has been the custom of the company to allow the consumer a rebate for the full amount indicated by the test certificate of the meter inspector for one-half of the time that the meter was in use, provided the consumer's account covered the period in question.

In view of the vast differences brought out through these comparisons, Inspector Ford recommends that the District Commissioners request the local gas companies to make a more liberal allowance than is at present allowed for fast-registering meters. This recommendation is of vital interest to gas consumers within the District, and is one of the features of the entire report.

Some interesting statements are made in the report relative to the quality of gas furnished in Washington and Georgetown. The average value of five cubic feet of Washington gas consumed per hour was equal to 25.35 candles, while the average of the gas manufactured by the Georgetown Company is recorded as 27.63 candles. Inspector Ford says this showing is excellent and cannot be surpassed by any gas company in the country, with the single exception of two or three in New York, which manufacture oil gas.

Eight hundred and ninety-four photometric inspections were made in Washington and 250 in Georgetown during the year. The local inspection is asserted to be the most thorough and accurate. Last year by way of comparison, it is stated that only fifty-two inspections were made in the entire city of Boston, or only one each week, while inspections are made here daily at four different laboratories.

During the year the office proved and inspected 3,383 gas meters. Those found to register fast numbered 108, with an average error of 4.12 per cent, and 524 registered slow, with an average error of 11.25 per cent. The number of meters removed from service on complaint was 1,188. Four hundred and twenty-four were complained of by consumers who believed that they registered incorrectly.

The fees received for inspection of meters and turned over to the collector of Taxes amounted to \$1,645. The mean average illuminating power determined at laboratories equaled 25.35 standard candles, and the minimum equaled 20.15 standard candles.

The illuminating power of local gas was at no time found to be lower than twenty-five candles. The impurity known as sulphurated hydrogen was found on fifty-one occasions. This is a decrease from 1898, but Inspector Ford maintains that the impurity should be entirely eliminated from gas. The average illuminating power of gas furnished in the District, Georgetown and Gaslight Company was 2.90 of one candle power less than that of the preceding year.

The report recommends in conclusion that the salary of the District Inspector be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per annum; that the hours during which the office of inspector is kept open, namely from 8 a. m. until 5 p. m., be reduced to conform with the hours of the collector of taxes; that another assistant inspector be appointed with compensation of \$720 per annum; and that the salary of the messenger be increased from \$180 to \$200 per annum.

Appended to the report is the following estimate of appropriations required for the support of the office during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901: Salary of the Inspector, \$1,200; estimated increase in salary of assistant, \$120; salary of the messenger, \$480; estimated increase in salary of messenger, \$120; estimate of salary for additional assistant, \$720, making a total estimate of \$4,320.

A WIDOW SUES FOR DOWER.

Mrs. Mangan Wants a Portion of Her Husband's Estate.
Mary P. V. Mangan, widow of Maurice Mangan, who died November 5 last, today filed suit against her children, asking the court to separate and set apart her dower out of the estate of her deceased husband.

Mrs. Mangan states that according to the terms of her husband's will, dated November 1, and filed for probate November 18 last, she was left nothing and that no provision was made for her dower. The estate, she says, consists of two houses, Nos. 285 and 304 G Street southwest, valued at \$17,000. She asks that a guardian be appointed for the minor children, and that the real property be sold and a proper division made of the proceeds.

The complaint is represented by Attorney Ed. L. Glick.

An Eel Story From Nantucket.

Nantucket, July 27.—Three fishermen yesterday battled for fifteen minutes with a gigantic eel which they thought was a sea serpent. They finally killed it and brought it to in their dory. It is a new one to Nantucket people, being six feet two inches in length and black. It is reported to abound in the Mediterranean and along the South African coast. It must have strayed out of the Gulf stream.

HOSTETTER'S GOOD BLOOD

full of vitality, comes from the use of Hostetter's Good Blood. It cures Dyspepsia, indigestion and constipation. See that a Private Revenue Stamp covers the neck of the Bottle.

The values are wide open now!

—and the greatest pressure possible to give has been given to this movement of the surplus stocks before the first of the coming month. There are but four days left, and we shall have to do eight days of ordinary selling. Can we do it? We can do anything with your help, but we do not expect your help unless it is to your advantage. It is to your advantage to buy here. And the statement that the values are extraordinary is too weak. Purchases "charged" and terms of payment made to suit the buyer. Privilege is offered everybody.

8 to 9.

Boys' knee pants, of galatea cloth, of many patterns, 61-2c instead of 11c.

83 pairs ladies' tan oxfords, nearly all sizes, reduced from 90c to 50c.

Lot of children's spring heel button and lace shoes, both tan and black—mostly hand sewed—sizes 4 to 8, reduced from \$1 to 40c.

9 to 10.

Ladies' linen crash skirts, made with deep hem full in width, good-fitting skirts, 19c instead of 40c.

Boys' knee pants of all-wool materials, in sizes 4 to 8, a lot which sold for 50c; balance of them to go for 15c.

Wool nun's veiling, in olive green and ecru; it is our 12-12c quality, but it is now sold for 7-8c.

Sheer fine quality white India linen, in lengths of from 1 to 6 yards, which sold for us as high as 18c yard, for 37-38c yard.

Lot of men's tennis oxfords, in sizes 5 to 9, which we sold for 50c; these few pairs, being last of the lot to go for 25c.

Lot of ladies' strap sandals, of excellent quality of kid, mostly all sizes, sold for \$1, reduced to 50c.

Waterproof felt window shades, in all colors, complete with fixtures, for 67-8c each.

36-inch wide cream curtain scrim, in handsome patterns, for 17-8c yard.

Men's all-linen collars, in all styles—same as you pay 15c for, for this hour 31-2c.

Men's non-elastic suspenders, for this hour 31-2c.

Ladies' white hemstitched handkerchiefs, instead of 10c, for 17-8c.

10c bottles ammonia, 11-2c bottle.

Children's best black full seamless hose, in all sizes, instead of 10c, for 31-2c.

Jewel metal belts, which sold from 50c to \$1.25, for 15c.

10 to 11.

Imported artificial flowers, in a splendid assortment, beautiful and natural, which sold for \$1.25 to \$1.95, for 19c.

Ladies' white "Jumbo" straw salons, with plain and polka dot bands, which sold for as high as \$1.25, for 49c.

Little girls' percale and lawn dresses, trimmed with ribbon, and all sizes, which sold for \$1.25 to \$1.95, for 49c.

Decorated toilet bottles, which were 30c, for 19c.

All-leather purses, in all colors and styles, which were 25c, for 5c.

10 to 11.

CONTINUED.

Ladies' muslin chemise, well-made garment, which sold for 39c, will be sold this hour for 19c.

Ladies' Percale Wrappers, made with separate waist lining, full width skirts, trimmed with wide ruffles and braids, which sold for 90c to \$1.50, for this hour 49c.

Lot of Boys' "Mother's Friend," White Percale Shirts, the balance of the season's stock, slightly soiled from showing; all have the famous detachable bands, which makes this shirtwaist the best on the market, sold for \$1, these go for 25c.

Just three odd Ladies' White India Linon Dresses, which sold for \$10; they are handsomely trimmed with embroidery inserting and tucks and ruffles; to go for 45c.

All that are left of the Ladies' Corded Taffeta Silk Waists, in about all sizes, the most stylish waists of the season, in good variety, which sold for \$4, for \$2.95.

Ladies' Blue Flannel Bathing Suits, trimmed with white braid, and well made, which sold up to \$4, for \$2.49.

Choice of all the high-price Cash and Linen Washable Skirts, in the house which sold up to \$5, for 90 cents this hour; all the highest grade garments and 50c would pay for making.

Lot of misses' tan button shoes, in sizes 11 to 1, which sold for \$1.25, to go for 50c.

Lot of little boys' spring heel shoes, in tan and black, in sizes 9 to 13, which sold for 25c, to go for 40c.

50 screen doors, of hardwood or walnut stained, complete with patent spring hinges, to go this hour for 49c.

Yard-wide dotted and figured white Swiss for curtains, which sold for 12-12c, this hour for 67-8c.

Double-bed size white spreads, in handsome patterns, for 49c.

Men's fast black full seamless half hose, in all sizes, 12-12c sort, for 51-2c pair.

Lot of grass linen embroidery, no matter what it sold for, to go for 41-2c.

Goodyear rubber dress shields, instead of 10c, for 31-2c.

Ladies' white Swiss ribbed vests, with neck and armholes with tape, for 31-2c, instead of 15c.

Lot of ladies' makras four-in-hand ties and band bows, which sold for 15c, to go for 8c.

Decorated toilet bottles, which were 30c, for 19c.

All-leather purses, in all colors and styles, which were 25c, for 5c.

11 to 12.

Tabled of ladies' handsome trimmed hats—beautiful creations which sold up to \$4 and \$5, will be reduced to 15c. They may sound ridiculous and it is, but it is a fact. Not many of them—but what there are, are handsome and worth their original prices.

Ladies' gray felt "Rough Rider" hats, trimmed with wide ruffles and silk and plain white silk bands and rosette and quill, for this hour \$1.39.

Lot of artificial flowers which sold for as high as \$5, and no lower than 40c, to go for 5c bunch. All on a big table.

Lot of French clip hats, in black only, which sold for \$1.25, to go now for 19c.

Lot of ladies' white jumbo straw "Rough Rider" hats, with natural quill and mull bands, for 95c.

Ladies' muslin skirts, trimmed with three rows of tucks, and good width, for 49c instead of 69c.

About 50 ladies' summer net corsets—the balance of our stock sold for as high as 69c, to go for 19c.

Lot of ladies' linen crash undershirts, trimmed with three rows of braid and umbrella ruffle, for 49c.

Lot of boys' galatea cloth washable suits, for 19c which sold for as high as 45c.

Lot of Boys' Blue Flannel Sifflor Blouse Suits, trimmed with white braid, in sizes 3 to 5, for 25c; originally sold for 38c.

Lot of Ladies' All-wool Suits—all thoroughly tailor-made garments and all this season's styles, embracing cassimeres, chevrot serge and other materials; all with silk-linen jackets and some of them elaborately braided; sold for as high as \$25, choice for \$19.95.

Ladies' Blue and Black Chevrot Serge Skirts, the most serviceable skirts possible to buy for outing wear, which sold for \$4.95, to go for \$2.95.

Lot of Ladies' White Duck Skirts, trimmed with three rows of blue duck in overskirt; also lot of white duck skirts, trimmed with braid in several different effects, for 49c.

Short lengths of White Pique, which sold for 31c, and tan duck, sold for 25c, to go for 8-3-4 a yard tomorrow this hour.

Small lot of Figured Lawns, which sold up to 12-12c yard, to go for 7-8c yard.

Ladies' Satin Stock Collars, in all colors, which sold for 12-12c, for 5c.

Every pair of our Men's \$1.50 Satin Collar will be closed out this hour for 90c.

Every pair of our men's \$1.50 and \$2 high collars, in tan and black, will be offered this hour for 90c.

Men's percale shirts, with or without collars, for 29c.

Heavy oilcloth or linoleum mats for 21c.

11 to 12.

CONTINUED.

200 yards of allkolines, in odd lengths—yard wide and splendid assortment of patterns, instead of 12-12c for 4-7-8c.

Best quality Yale Holland window shades, in all colors, with fixtures complete, for 19-7-8c.

White spangled bureau scarfs and shawls to match, in handsome patterns, instead of 30c, for 12-12c.

Men's hairbrigan shirts and drawers, in plain and colors, which sold for 55c and 35c garment, to go for 15c garment.

Large lot of embroidery and insertings, which sold for 8c and 10c, to go for 27-8c yard.

All-silk taffeta ribbons, in all colors, which sold for 19c yard, to go for 11-12c yard.

Oakley's pertained soaps, big assortment, worth up to 15c, for 5c cake.

Ladies' best black full seamless hose, instead of 10c, for 51-2c.

1 to 2.

Best quality 7-quarter mosquito netting, in pink or red, in 8-yard pieces, for 19c.

Best quality stair or runner oilcloth for 4-7-8c yard.

Extra heavy unbleached Turkish towels, good size, sold for 3-4c, for this hour 4-7-8c.

Double bed sheets, hemstitched and hand torn and hand ironed, 81 by 50 inches in size, instead of 69c for 49c.

2 to 3.

Ladies' cambric corset covers, trimmed with deep embroidery; V or square neck; instead of 25c, for 8-1-2c.

Lot of boys' fine galatea cloth suits, with plain collars and cuffs, with anchors embroidered on shield, for 25c, which sold for 35c and more.

Choice this hour of any of the children's handsome straw salons, no matter how much it sold for—plain white and mixed straw—with bands of all colors—sold for \$1.50 to \$2.50.

Lot of ladies' white pique skirts, trimmed with two rows of embroidery inserting and some with blue duck, for \$1.49.

Bleached and unbleached muslin, full yard wide and in good lengths, for an hour 3-7-8c yard.

Men's talcum powder, instead of 25c box for 14c.

Mantel or piano lambrequins, of pretty art drapery, fringed all around, for 27c.

Heavy oilcloth or linoleum mats for 21c.

Another slash at crash suits, etc.

When we cut the crash suits down to \$2.29 and \$1.65 we did what was never before done in this city, and now look what we have done.

All up to \$3.50 go for \$1.25.

All up to \$7.50 go for \$1.98.

But this is the last cut—depend on that. They cannot be less. The loss now is enormous, for these, you know, are not the cheap, poorly made suits so easy to buy.

Men's \$1.25 crash pants, 39c.

100 (and all) men's office coats, 15c.

Men's odd crash coats for 49c.

Odd crash vests, 10c.

Men's \$12 and \$15 suits, \$4.90

—all-wool cassimeres, in handsome patterns. The greatest values in men's all-wool suits ever offered by a retail clothing house.

Men's fancy crash hats, 17c.

All colored shirt waists in 2 lots.

Help yourselves! They are spread out on immense tables, and as fast as you take them we add more from the boxes piled around. We have divided the entire stock of colored shirt waists in two lots and reduced them to a remarkable lowness.

49 cents

for all colored waists which sold up to \$1.50.

79 cents

for all colored waists which sold up to \$3.50.

\$1.98 white India linon waists, 79c.

Nobody has cut India linon waists as we have. These, for instance, sold for \$1.98, and you know when we were selling them at \$1.98 others were getting \$2.50 and more for them. When we cut them to 79c we offer you a great bargain.

3 to 4.

Clark's "O. N. T." spool cotton, 21-2c.

Choice of any of the finest trimmed hats, no matter what they sold for, will be given you tomorrow, this hour for \$1.58.

Lot of little girls' hats with straw crowns and mull brims, for this hour 5c, or as long as they last.

Ladies' muslin drawers, with three rows of tucks, and with all seams felled, for 91-2c instead of 19c.

Ladies' muslin gowns, with embroidery ruffle, for 29c which sold for almost double.

A few little girls' duck sailor blouse dresses; trimmed with blue polka dot duck and some with most expensive Hamburg inserting and edging, and braid; they are the highest grade garments made of this sort, and sold for as much as \$5, choice of them for \$1.98.

3 to 4.

CONTINUED.

Little boys' Merrimac percale shirt waists, in splendid patterns, for 3c instead of 19c.

Little Boys' Blue Denim "Brownie" Overall, with suspender straps, and made of heavy quality blue denim, for this hour 15c.

Choice lot of finest White Pique Skirts, trimmed elaborately with embroidery inserting, sold up to \$5 and \$7, for \$1.98.

Plain Black and White Sheer India Linon, full pieces, to sell this hour for 12-12c.

Extra heavy Woven Hammocks, with steel spreader and pillow attached, fringed all around, for 50c.

Ten copies of Sheet Music, embracing a great many of the most popular productions, for 19c this hour.

HECHT AND COMPANY,

513-515 Seventh Street.

ARGENTINA'S NEW TARIFF

Minister Buchanan Repor's to the State Department.

National Needs Compel the Continuation of the Special Customs Tax. Ten Per Cent Additional Duty Recommended by the Executive Power—Schedule Likely to Be Adopted.

William L. Buchanan, American Minister at Buenos Ayres, writes to the State Department this afternoon about the proposed Argentine tariff:

"Knowing the interest taken by our manufacturers in the subject of the customs tariff here and in other countries, I hasten to say that the Argentine executive has just transmitted to Congress the budget law for next year. This law includes the customs tariff project proposed by the executive power for 1900. Although this may be modified in some manner by Congress, I am inclined to believe that the recommendations will be adopted.

"In referring to the message accompanying the budget law on the question of customs duties, and especially to the additional customs duty of 10 per cent now in force, the executive power says:

"This special tax was established in moments of supreme expectancy in the name of high and sacred considerations of national security and with the purpose of applying the product thereof toward satisfying the extraordinary requirements of the nation at that moment. The public powers obligated themselves not to suspend the existing state of things, and to the existing state of things disappeared or became modified.

"These considerations, fortunately, do not now exist, but I find myself obliged to propose the continuation of the financial burden which this additional duty imposes upon the country, seeing that, although no reason of national security argues its imposition, there is still to be cancelled a debt of importance, previously contracted, the fulfillment of which is well known. Notwithstanding, in order to make this additional duty less onerous, I have sought to distribute the sums which it represents among the principal schedules of tariff law, seeking to lighten those that are found most heavily burdened and to burden those that are less; and, after a comprehensive study, I believe that the method contained in the proposed customs law reporting, as far as possible, the interests of the consumer and the revenue necessities of the state.

"In accordance with the views thus expressed, the executive power recommends that the 10 per cent additional duty spoken of be merged for 1900 into the regular duty of 20 per cent, and that the duty on all valorem duty is 25 per cent, it is to be raised to 25 per cent; where it is now 50 per cent, it is to be raised to 25 per cent; where it is now 15 and 20 per cent, both are to be raised to 25 per cent; where it is now 10 per cent, it is to be raised to 20 per cent; and where it is now 5-2-2 and 4 per cent, both are to be raised to 5 per cent.

"Specific duties are to be proportionately raised, but it is impossible from the message to state just how or to what degree. On this point the executive power says: 'With regard to specific duties the increases fixed in the project are based on

an average taken from the values fixed in the law in force.'

"With regard to the proposal made by the press here to abolish the import duty now in force upon agricultural products the message says: 'Compelled from the same considerations (referring to the reasons given for the proposed tariff) as to the abolition of the duty on cattle and sheep products, I should have liked to propose the repeal of that duty, which falls on the gross production of the principal industry of the country, placing it at a disadvantageous position to compete with like articles in the consuming markets abroad, but the necessity of meeting the payment of the debt contracted to prepare for the national security, as well as the duty of constructions of works called for by imperative considerations of hygiene and general progress, prevent me at present from realizing this wish. The export duty will continue to figure in the revenue which makes up the national treasury.'

CHINESE EASTERN RAILROAD.

The Equipment of the Line May Be Bought in America.

New York, July 27.—The Russian chief engineer of the mechanical department of the Chinese Eastern Railway, V. A. Kashvenikoff, who has been in the United States for several months, left here yesterday for Harbin in Manchuria, where the temporary machine shops of the railway are. He will reach there in about two and one-half months. During his stay in this country he has ordered \$250,000 worth of tools, sending some of them overland to the Pacific coast to secure quick delivery, although that means largely increased freight rates. The builders of the road are in great haste for all materials.

Mr. Kashvenikoff says that the equipment of the entire equipment of the road would be purchased in this country, or that \$10,000,000 out of the \$12,000,000 appropriated would be spent here, but only on the condition of haste.

In an interview which appears this morning in the New York "Commercial," Mr. Kashvenikoff says: "All of this (the equipment of the railway), however, is contingent upon the manufacturers of this country being a little less exacting as to prices, which are at present in many instances higher than those of the English and the Germans. There is also the drawback of retarded delivery to be taken into consideration, as I find the increase of prices does not of necessity mean prompt delivery. It would be well to remember that the English and Germans are at the moment making considerable headway by reason of prompt delivery and if American manufacturers do not take steps to be more reasonable as to